

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 411

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR FR CA

SUBJ PRESS COMMENT TRUDEAU VISIT

1. MAJOR FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPERS RECEIVED THIS POST HAVE FOLLOWED VISIT WITH INTEREST AND RATHER EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY REFLECTS PREVIOUS WELL-KNOWN VIEWS OF WRITERS. SAMPLE FOLLOWS, FULL TEXTS BY POUCH.

2. IN LE SOLEIL (QUEBEC) OF OCTOBER 23, GILLES BOYER, A CONVINCED FEDERALIST, WRITES THAT A BAD PAGE OF HISTORY WAS TURNED WITH MEETING IN PARIS. HE STATES RETURN WARM FRENCH-CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP IS BASED ON CLEAR FRENCH RECOGNITION ESTABLISHED CANADIAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED QUOTE ITS WILLINGNESS NO LONGER TO INTERVENE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. UNQUOTE. THE TIES BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA ARE FOR ALL OF CANADA NOT JUST QUEBEC.

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BOYER STATES THAT THERE ARE MANY POSSIBILITIES COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC FIELD. QUOTE FOR CANADA, THE TIME IS RIPE TO

REALIZE ONE OF ITS MAJOR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES: TO AVOID A TOO EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE. HE CITES FACT TRUDEAU IS FRANCOPHONE AND STATES THAT QUOTE THE UNION OF THE 2 LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES IN CANADA PERMITS EACH OF 2 GROUPS TO PUT THEIR FORCES TOGETHER TO RESIST THE POWER OF THE AMERICAN ATTRACTION UNQUOTE. HE CLOSES STATING THAT CANADA HAS NO INTEREST IN DIVIDING FRANCE FROM EEC ALLIES AND FRANCE HAS NONE IN PLAYING ON CANADIAN DOMESTIC DIVISIONS.

3. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED QUOTE THE DREAM PASSES UNQUOTE IN SEPARATIST PAPER LE JOUR (MONTREAL) , YVES MICHAUD WRITES TRUDEAU WON EASY VICTORY OVER QUEBEC AS EXPECTED. FROM NOW ON, FRANCO-QUEBECOIS RELATIONS WILL CONFORM TO OTTAWA S POLICIES BUT NOT TO NEEDS OF QUEBEC AND FRENCH-CANADIANS. LE JOUR ADDS THAT THIS CLOSES ONE OF MOST BRILLIANT CHAPTERS OF QUEBEC HISTORY: BEGUN BY LESAGE, FOLLOWED BY JOHNSON AND LIQUIDATED BY BOURASSA. QUEBEC, MICHAUD FEARS, HAS LOST ITS POSITION AS PRIVILEGED INTERLOCUTOR WITH FRENCH IN AREAS WHERE QUEBEC SHOULD HAVE JURISDICTION. THIS LOSS BY BOURASSA COMES DESPITE HIS CONSTANT EVOCATION OF QUOTE CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY UNQUOTE. MICHAUD ALSO TAKES SWIPE AT FRENCH AS INSENSITIVE TO THEIR OWN REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND AS HAVEING OVERLOOKED CANADA'S AFTER HAVING BEEN TAKEN IN BY TRUDEAU.

4. LE DEVOIR (MONTREAL) CARRIES CLAUDE RYAN EDITORIAL ENTITLED QUOTE FRUITFUL FIRST STEP IN PARIS UNQUOTE. RYAN, WHO BASICALLY SUPPORTS FEDERALISM, STATES VISIT WAS SUCCESS WHICH SURPASSES EVEN MOST OPTIMISTIC HOPES. NO IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS SIGNED BUT DECLARATION AND FORM MARK IMPORTANT DATE HISTORY CANADA - FRANCE RELATIONS. NORMAL RELATIONS REESTABLISHED AND DIRECT RELATIONS QUEBEC-FRANCE WILL IN NO WAY BE MODIFIED. MORE OPENNES FROM BOTH SIDES APPARENT. PRINCIPAL AREAS CONCERN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL.

QUEBEC-FRANCE RELATIONS NOT MODIFIED: NEVER WERE AS DANGEROUS FOR CANADIAN UNITY AS TRUDEAU MAY HAVE THOUGHT. QUEBEC-FRANCE RELATIONS ACCEPTED BY ALL , WITHOUT RETICENCE, AS ACTIVE FACT. QUEBEC CAN HAVE ALL EXCHANGE WITH FRANCE THAT IT WANTS. RYAN UNCLASSIFIED
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CLOSES BY UNDERLINING IMPORTANCE TRUDEAU VISIT TO EEC.
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